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C. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method for splicing network connections, said method comprising:
receiving a first handoff request from a first node
corresponding to a first node identifier, wherein the first node is connected to a client node using a first connection;
identifying a second node based on a second node identifier, wherein the second node is connected to the first node using a second connection;
updating one or more connection tables with data
corresponding to the first and second connections,
wherein the connection tables include a first mapping table and a reverse mapping table; and
redirecting one or more client packets sent over the first connection from the client node to the second node in response to the updated connection tables;
writing a first reverse mapping entry to the first mapping table, the first reverse mapping entry including the
second node identifier, the first node identifier and
a pointer to the reverse mapping table; and
writing a second reverse mapping entry in the reverse
mapping table, the reverse mapping entry including the
client node identifier.
2. (currently amended) The method as described in claim 1 wherein the updating further comprises:
writing a first entry to the [[a]] first mapping table, the first entry including [[a]] the client node identifier
~~corresponding to the client node, [[a]] the first node~~

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identifier ~~corresponding to the first node~~, and a pointer to a second mapping table;
creating the second mapping table; and
writing a second entry in the second mapping table, the second entry including the second node identifier.

3. (original) The method as described in claim 2 further comprising:
writing a third entry in the second mapping table in response to receiving a second handoff request, the third entry identifying a third node, wherein the second entry includes a first handoff sequence value corresponding to the first handoff request and wherein the third entry includes a second handoff sequence value corresponding to the second handoff request;
receiving a request from the client, the request including a request sequence value corresponding to the request;
and
redirecting the request to the third node in response to the request sequence value being greater than or equal to the second handoff sequence value.
4. (original) The method as described in claim 3 further comprising:
redirecting the request to the second node in response to the request sequence value being greater than or equal to the first handoff sequence value and less than the second handoff sequence value.
5. (canceled)

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6. (currently amended) The method as described in claim [[5]]
1 further comprising:
receiving a packet from the second node that includes a
destination address identifying the first node;
matching the packet to the first reverse mapping entry;
retrieving the client node identifier from the reverse
mapping table in response to the matching; and
changing the destination address to identify the client
node identifier.
7. (original) The method as described in claim 1 further
comprising:
redirecting one or more response packets sent by the second
node over the second connection to the client node in
response to the updated tables.
8. (currently amended) An information handling system
comprising:
one or more processors;
a memory accessible by the processors;
a network interface connecting the information handling
system to a computer network; and
a connection splicing tool for splicing connections between
nodes, the connection splicing tool including:
means for receiving a first handoff request from a
first node, wherein the first node is connected
to a client node using a first connection over
the computer network;
means for identifying a second node based on a second
node identifier, wherein the second node is
connected to the first node using a second
connection over the computer network;

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means for updating one or more connection tables with data corresponding to the first and second connections, wherein the connection tables include a first mapping table and a reverse mapping table; and

means for redirecting one or more client packets sent over the first connection from the client node to the second node in response to the updated connection tables;

means for writing a first reverse mapping entry to the first mapping table, the first reverse mapping entry including the second node identifier, the first node identifier and a pointer to the reverse mapping table; and

means for writing a second reverse mapping entry in the reverse mapping table, the reverse mapping entry including the client node identifier

9. (currently amended) The information handling system as described in claim 8 wherein the means for updating further comprises:

means for writing a first entry to the ~~the~~ [[a]] first mapping table stored in the memory, the first entry including [[a]] the client node identifier ~~corresponding to the client node,~~ [[a]] the first node identifier ~~corresponding to the first node,~~ and a pointer to a second mapping table stored in the memory;

means for creating the second mapping table; and

means for writing a second entry in the second mapping table, the second entry including the second node identifier.

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10. (original) The information handling system as described in claim 9 further comprising:

means for writing a third entry in the second mapping table in response to receiving a second handoff request, the third entry identifying a third node connected to the computer network, wherein the second entry includes a first handoff sequence value corresponding to the first handoff request and wherein the third entry includes a second handoff sequence value corresponding to the second handoff request;

means for receiving a request from the client over the computer network, the request including a request sequence value corresponding to the request; and

means for redirecting the request to the third node in response to the request sequence value being greater than or equal to the second handoff sequence value.

11. (original) The information handling system as described in claim 10 further comprising:

means for redirecting the request to the second node in response to the request sequence value being greater than or equal to the first handoff sequence value and less than the second handoff sequence value.

12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) The information handling system as described in claim ~~12~~ 8 further comprising:

means for receiving a packet from the second node over the computer network, the packet including a destination address identifying the first node;

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means for matching the packet to the first reverse mapping entry;

means for retrieving the client node identifier from the reverse mapping table in response to the matching; and

means for changing the destination address to identify the client node identifier.

14. (original) The information handling system as described in claim 8 further comprising:

means for redirecting one or more response packets sent by the second node over the second connection to the client node in response to the updated tables.

15. (currently amended) A computer program product stored in a computer operable media for splicing network connections, said computer program product comprising:

means for receiving a first handoff request from a first node, wherein the first node is connected to a client node using a first connection;

means for identifying a second node based on a second node identifier, wherein the second node is connected to the first node using a second connection;

means for updating one or more connection tables with data corresponding to the first and second connections, wherein the connection tables include a first mapping table and a reverse mapping table; and

means for redirecting one or more client packets sent over the first connection from the client node to the second node in response to the updated connection tables;

means for writing a first reverse mapping entry to the first mapping table, the first reverse mapping entry

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including the second node identifier, the first node identifier and a pointer to the reverse mapping table;
and

means for writing a second reverse mapping entry in the reverse mapping table, the reverse mapping entry including the client node identifier.

16. (currently amended) The computer program product as described in claim 15 wherein the means for updating further comprises:

means for writing a first entry to the ~~[[a]]~~ first mapping table, the first entry including ~~[[a]]~~ the client node identifier ~~corresponding to the client node, [[a]] the first node identifier corresponding to the first node,~~ and a pointer to a second mapping table;

means for creating the second mapping table; and

means for writing a second entry in the second mapping table, the second entry including the second node identifier.

17. (original) The computer program product as described in claim 16 further comprising:

means for writing a third entry in the second mapping table in response to receiving a second handoff request, the third entry identifying a third node, wherein the second entry includes a first handoff sequence value corresponding to the first handoff request and wherein the third entry includes a second handoff sequence value corresponding to the second handoff request;

means for receiving a request from the client, the request including a request sequence value corresponding to the request; and

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means for redirecting the request to the third node in response to the request sequence value being greater than or equal to the second handoff sequence value.

18. (original) The computer program product as described in claim 17 further comprising:

means for redirecting the request to the second node in response to the request sequence value being greater than or equal to the first handoff sequence value and less than the second handoff sequence value.

19. (canceled)

20. (currently amended) The computer program product as described in claim ~~19~~ 15 further comprising:

means for receiving a packet from the second node that includes a destination address identifying the first node;

means for matching the packet to the first reverse mapping entry;

means for retrieving the client node identifier from the reverse mapping table in response to the matching; and

means for changing the destination address to identify the client node identifier.

21. (new) The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:

recording a sequence range corresponding to the first handoff request;

receiving a packet from the client node, the packet including a sequence value;

performing the redirecting only if the packet's sequence value is within the sequence range.

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22. (new) The information handling system as described in claim 8 further comprising:
- means for recording a sequence range corresponding to the first handoff request;
 - means for receiving a packet from the client node, the packet including a sequence value;
 - means for performing the redirecting only if the packet's sequence value is within the sequence range.
23. (new) The computer program product as described in claim 15 further comprising:
- means for recording a sequence range corresponding to the first handoff request;
 - means for receiving a packet from the client node, the packet including a sequence value;
 - means for performing the redirecting only if the packet's sequence value is within the sequence range.